What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

examining a call and a file descriptor associated with the call in an application node of a system area network; and

if the call and the file descriptor are of a first type, translating the call to a protocol recognized by a second node in the system area network and communicating the translated call to the second node.

2. The method of claim 1 including processing the call using an operating system of the application node if the call and the file descriptor are of a second type.

3. The method of claim 1 including assigning the file descriptor using an operating system of the application node.

4. The method of claim 1 including mapping a communications identifier, received in the application node from the second node, to the file descriptor.

5. A system area network comprising:

a first node; and

an application node including a processor configured

for:

examining a call and a file descriptor associated

with a call in the application node; and

5   if the call and the file descriptor are of a

first type, translating the call to a protocol recognized

by the first node.

6.   The system area network of claim 5 further including a

10   network node, wherein the first node is a proxy node

including a processor configured for translating the call

to a protocol recognized by the network node.

7.   The system area network of claim 5 wherein the

15   processor is further configured for translating a call to a

lightweight protocol message.

8.   The system area network of claim 5 wherein the

processor is further configured for translating a plurality

20   of calls to a single lightweight protocol message.

9.   The system area network of claim 5 wherein the

processor is further configured for translating the call to

a plurality of lightweight protocol messages.

10. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the processor is configured for translating the call to a lightweight protocol message using a lightweight protocol

5 message received from the first node.

11. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the processor is further configured for translating more than one call to a lightweight protocol message using a

10 lightweight protocol message received from the first node.

12. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the processor is further configured for translating the call to a lightweight protocol message using a plurality of

15 lightweight protocol messages received from the first node.

13. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the application node includes an operating system for processing the call if the file descriptor is of a second

20 type.

14. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the application node further includes an operating system for assigning the file descriptor.

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15. The system area network of claim 5 wherein the processor is further configured for mapping a communications identifier, received in the application

5   node, to the file descriptor.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a port for connecting the apparatus to a system area network; and

10   a processor configured for:

examining a call and a file descriptor associated with the call; and

if the call and the file descriptor are of a first type, translating the call to a protocol recognized

15   by a system area network device and sending the translated call through the port addressed to the system area network device.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an

20   operating system for processing the call if the call and the file descriptor are of a second type.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an operating system for assigning the file descriptor.

19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the processor is further configured for mapping a communications identifier, received at the apparatus, to the file descriptor.

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20. An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

   examine a call and a file descriptor associated with a

10 call in an application node of a system area network; and

   if the call and the file descriptor are of a first type, translate the call to a protocol recognized by a second node in the system area network and send the translated call to the second node.

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21. The article of claim 20 further comprising instructions for causing the computer system to process the call using an operating system in the application node.

20 22. The article of claim 20 further comprising instructions for causing the computer system to assign the file descriptor using an operating system of the application node.

23. The article of claim 20 further comprising instructions for causing the computer system to map a communications identifier, received in the application node, to the file descriptor.

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